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you get passed ICOD and the IOI, the International Ocean Institute, you then start looking at organizations such as the United Nations Environmental Program, which has activities in the marine sector. We had a lot to do with FAO in Rome, which has a number of fisheries-related programs.

When you use the term "competitor", I have a bit of a problem with that. I think it's better to ask who our collaborators are, because I don't think we felt that we had competitors, per se, out there. We didn't want to duplicate activities that other organizations were doing, but we weren't sort of competing. There's a lot to do in the oceans area, because traditionally donors have neglected the oceans. So there was a world of things to do out there and not very much money; the important thing, therefore, was to co-operate and collaborate with the other organizations that had similar mandates, be they UN organizations or, in the case of the IOI, an international NGO.

Mr. LeBlanc: By "competitor", I'm talking about other agencies doing the type of work you're doing and your capacity to be the leader in the field in terms of whatever expertise is associated with that activity. So I'm talking about competitors in that sense.

Mr. Farmer: Possibly the former president could address that.

Mr. Vernon: I'd like to add just one point. ICOD was, in some senses, bucking the trend, because the trend in development assistance in the oceans area, and in the fisheries area in particular, has been going down quite markedly. The World Bank and UNDP just commissioned, for \$1 million, a study that they called "Research Needs in Fisheries Development", which was occasioned because they were getting worried that the amount of assistance going to that sector was tailing off. So ICOD very much was on its way to becoming one of the main focal points in that area.

Mr. LeBlanc: You employed 66 people, roughly. What kinds of professionals did you have employed on your staff? Were they marine biologists?

Mr. Farmer: There were some marine biologists. A lot of them would be people with international experience, especially managerial, because in effect they involved themselves quite extensively in project management and creation of projects.

Mr. LeBlanc: What will happen to those people?

Mr. Farmer: So far, out of our staff, which gets to be close to 70, there might be three who could be absorbed back into the federal—

Mr. Comber: There are three people on leaves of absence from CIDA who could go back to CIDA, if they so chose. The rest of the people are basically unemployed and looking for jobs.

Mr. LeBlanc: And they are professional?

Mr. Comber: I would say that half of them are professional and half are support staff, etc.

Mr. LeBlanc: Is there any obvious place where the professionals' skills can be utilized?

Mr. Farmer: A lot of them are looking to other foreign agencies.

[Translation]

d'océanographie, il y a le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement, qui s'occupe entre autres des océans, et la FAO, à Rome, qui a des programmes dans le domaine des pêches.

Il s'agit plutôt de collègues que de concurrents, car nous n'avions nullement l'intention de faire double emploi avec le travail des autres. De toute façon, il y a énormément à faire dans ce secteur, car, jusqu'à présent, peu d'argent a été consacré aux océans. Donc, étant donné l'ampleur de la tâche, l'essentiel, c'était d'assurer la collaboration entre toutes les institutions spécialisées.

M. LeBlanc: Je pensais plutôt à d'autres institutions spécialisées dans le même domaine, et à votre place parmi elles.

M. Farmer: Je demanderais à notre ancien président de vous répondre.

M. Vernon: Le CIEO travaillait en quelque sorte à contre-courant, car on enregistre ces temps-ci une baisse dans l'aide au développement pour les pêches et l'exploitation des océans. C'est d'ailleurs pour cela que la Banque mondiale et le PNUD ont lancé une étude d'un million de dollars intitulée «Besoins en recherche dans le développement des pêches». Le CIEO jouait donc un rôle capital dans ce secteur.

M. LeBlanc: Parmi les 66 personnes qui travaillaient pour vous, vous aviez bien entendu des spécialistes, et sans doute des biologistes du milieu marin.

M. Farmer: C'est exact, et nous avons d'ailleurs un certain nombre de spécialistes de réputation internationale, surtout en ce qui concerne la gestion et la création de projets.

M. LeBlanc: Qu'est-ce qui arrivera de tous ces gens?

M. Farmer: Sur les 70 personnes qui travaillent pour nous, il y en a sans doute trois qui retourneront dans la fonction publique fédérale. . .

M. Comber: Nous avons trois personnes qui étaient détachées de l'ACDI et qui pourront donc y retourner si elles le souhaitent. Quant aux autres, ils devront se trouver un autre travail.

M. LeBlanc: Et ce sont tous des professionnels?

M. Comber: La moitié le sont, et, pour le reste, il s'agit de personnel de soutien, etc.

M. LeBlanc: Et où ces spécialistes peuvent-ils trouver de l'emploi?

M. Farmer: La plupart cherchent à se faire engager par des institutions internationales.